

# Preliminary Damage Assessment Report

## **Alabama – Hurricane Zeta FEMA-4573-DR**

### ***Declared December 10, 2020***

On October 29, 2020, Governor Kay Ivey requested an expedited major disaster declaration due to Hurricane Zeta during the period of October 28-29, 2020. The Governor requested a declaration for Public Assistance for 49 counties and the Poarch Band of Creek Indians and Hazard Mitigation statewide. On November 24, 2020, the state withdrew its request for Public Assistance for 30 counties and the Poarch Band of Creek Indians from the initial request. On December 1, 2020, the state requested the designation of Individual Assistance for seven counties. During the period of November 16-30, 2020, joint federal, state, tribal, and local government Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) were conducted in the requested areas and are summarized below. PDAs estimate damages immediately after an event and are considered, along with several other factors, in determining whether a disaster is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and the affected local governments, and that Federal assistance is necessary.<sup>1</sup>

On December 10, 2020, President Trump declared that a major disaster exists in the State of Alabama. This declaration made Individual Assistance available to affected individuals and households in Clarke, Dallas, Marengo, Mobile, Perry, Washington, and Wilcox Counties. This declaration also made Public Assistance available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by Hurricane Zeta in Autauga, Butler, Cherokee, Chilton, Choctaw, Clarke, Clay, Coosa, Dallas, Elmore, Hale, Marengo, Mobile, Monroe, Perry, Randolph, Talladega, Washington, and Wilcox Counties. Finally, this declaration made Hazard Mitigation Grant Program assistance available for hazard mitigation measures statewide.<sup>2</sup>

### **Summary of Damage Assessment Information Used in Determining Whether to Declare a Major Disaster**

#### **Individual Assistance**

- Total Number of Residences Impacted:<sup>3</sup> 1,006
  - Destroyed - 33
  - Major Damage - 102
  - Minor Damage - 352
  - Affected - 519
  
- Percentage of insured residences:<sup>4</sup> 31.0%
- Percentage of poverty households:<sup>5</sup> Clarke 25.4% Dallas 31.1%

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|--|------------------------|-------------|------------|-------|
|  | Marengo                | 21.8%       | Mobile     | 17.4% |
|  | Perry                  | 41.8%       | Washington | 21.0% |
|  | Wilcox                 | 31.1%       |            |       |
|  |                        | 88.57%      |            |       |
| • Percentage of ownership households: <sup>6</sup>                       |                        |             |            |       |
| • Population receiving other government assistance such as SSI and SNAP: |                        |             |            |       |
| • Pre-Disaster Unemployment:   | N/A                    |             |            |       |
|  | (All Pre-COVID) Clarke | 5.6%        |            |       |
|  | Dallas                 | 3.8%        | Marengo    | 3.6%  |
|  | Mobile                 | 3.8%        | Perry      | 4.8%  |
|  | Washington             | 4.7%        | Wilcox     | 8.5%  |
| • Age 65 and older:  | Clarke                 | 19.0%       | Dallas     | 16.8% |
|  | Marengo                | 18.9%       | Mobile     | 16.5% |
|  | Perry                  | 18.6%       | Washington | 18.3% |
|  | Wilcox                 | 18.4%       |            |       |
| • Age 18 and under:  | Clarke                 | 22.8%       | Dallas     | 24.4% |
|  | Marengo                | 22.9%       | Mobile     | 23.3% |
|  | Perry                  | 21.8%       | Washington | 22.3% |
|  | Wilcox                 | 24.4%       |            |       |
| • Disability:  | Clarke                 | 15.4%       | Dallas     | 15.4% |
|  | Marengo                | 23.6%       | Mobile     | 15.2% |
|  | Perry                  | 25.3%       | Washington | 24.3% |
|  | Wilcox                 | 17.7%       |            |       |
| • IHP Cost to Capacity (ICC) Ratio:                                      |                        | 17          |            |       |
| • Total Individual Assistance cost estimate:                             |                        | \$4,072,455 |            |       |

## Public Assistance

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| • Primary Impact:                                      | Cost associated with debris removal  |
| • Total Public Assistance cost estimate:               | \$26,548,426   |
| • Statewide per capita impact: <sup>7</sup>            | \$5.55   |
| • Statewide per capita impact indicator: <sup>8</sup>  | \$1.55   |
| • Countywide per capita impact:                        | Autauga County (\$18.41), Butler County (\$20.86), Cherokee County (\$4.32), Chilton County (\$6.87), Choctaw County (\$96.33), Clarke County (\$223.04), Clay County (\$5.25), Coosa County (\$77.37), Dallas County (\$9.13), Elmore County (\$7.84), Hale County (\$18.78), Marengo County (\$89.69), Mobile County (\$15.90), Monroe County (\$35.52), Perry County (\$35.37), Randolph County (\$4.60), Talladega County (\$20.42), Washington County (\$133.62), and Wilcox County (\$131.22). |
| • Countywide per capita impact indicator: <sup>9</sup> | \$3.89   |

<sup>1</sup> The Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) process is a mechanism used to determine the impact and magnitude of damage and resulting needs of individuals, businesses, public sector, and community as a whole. Information collected is used by the State as a basis for the Governor's request for a major disaster or emergency declaration, and by the President in determining a response to the Governor's request (44 CFR § 206.33).

<sup>2</sup> When a Governor's request for major disaster assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended (Stafford Act) is under review, a number of primary factors are considered

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to determine whether assistance is warranted. These factors are outlined in FEMA’s regulations (44 CFR § 206.48). The President has ultimate discretion and decision making authority to declare major disasters and emergencies under the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. § 5170 and § 5191).

<sup>3</sup> Degree of damage to impacted residences:

- Destroyed – total loss of structure, structure is not economically feasible to repair, or complete failure to major structural components (e.g., collapse of basement walls/foundation, walls or roof);
- Major Damage – substantial failure to structural elements of residence (e.g., walls, floors, foundation), or damage that will take more than 30 days to repair;
- Minor Damage – home is damaged and uninhabitable, but may be made habitable in short period of time with repairs; and
- Affected – some damage to the structure and contents, but still habitable.

<sup>4</sup> By law, Federal disaster assistance cannot duplicate insurance coverage. 42 U.S.C. § 5155 and 44 C.F.R. § 206.48(b)(5).

<sup>5</sup> Special populations, such as low-income, the elderly, or the unemployed may indicate a greater need for assistance. 44 C.F.R. § 206.48(b)(3).

<sup>6</sup> Ibid. 44 C.F.R. § 206.48(b)(3).

<sup>7</sup> Based on State population in the 2010 Census.

<sup>8</sup> Statewide Per Capita Impact Indicator for FY21, *Federal Register*, October 1, 2020.

<sup>9</sup> Countywide Per Capita Impact Indicator for FY21, *Federal Register*, October 1, 2020.